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**DRAFT REGULATION ON THE SUPPLY OF
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO POLAND**

At the Western Economic Summit held in Paris from 14 to 16 July, the Heads of State or Government adopted the following resolution:

"to work along with other interested countries and multilateral institutions to concert support for the process of reform underway in Hungary and Poland, in order to make our measures of support more effective and mutually reinforcing. We will encourage further creative efforts by interested governments and the public and private sectors in support of the reform process.

Concerning concerted support for reform in Poland and Hungary, we call for a meeting with all interested countries which will take place in the next few weeks. We underline, for Poland, the urgent need for food in present circumstances.

To these ends, we ask the Commission of the European Communities to take the necessary initiatives in agreement with the other Member States of the Community, and to associate, besides the Summit participants, all interested countries."

To this end, the Commission today adopted a proposal for a Regulation put forward by Mr Mac Sharry. This will serve as a framework for the supply of certain agricultural products to Poland free of charge.

The proposal will mean that Community intervention food products are used to meet current needs, but also with a view to a medium-term structural approach to improve balance in the agri-foodstuffs sector.

As agreed at the last Council meeting of Foreign Ministers, the Commission intends in this way to provide an initial supply of foodstuffs as soon as possible on the basis of the same Regulation. It will begin other operations once it has held the consultations stipulated by the Paris Summit. All the food supply operations will contribute towards the constitution of a counterpart fund, the arrangements for which will be agreed with the other parties concerned, to be used for setting up a programme of economic restructuring.

The Regulation does not specify which products will be taken out of Community intervention. It is a legal instrument allowing both flexibility and adaptation.

The products to be supplied free of charge, the quantities involved and the practical delivery arrangements will be decided on a case-by-case basis in accordance with needs. This will require coordination with the Polish authorities and the other donors in accordance with the procedures of the management committees for the products concerned. These initial operations can be planned once the draft Regulation has been adopted by the Council meeting of Agriculture Ministers on 24 and 25 July.

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